(b) It is not proposed to bring a legislation to separate policy making and operational functons. In so far as the proposed Regulatory Authority is concerned, it is proposed to set up this body through a Government Resolution after Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1995 is passed by the Parliament.

(c) No decision has been taken regarding the form which the restructuring exercise for distancing policy making and operational functions will take and as such it is not possible to spell out at this stage the terms and conditions as will as criteria for selection of Chairman/Members of the entities to be charged with so far as Telecom Regulatory Authority is concerned, it will be a non-statutory body to begin with but will have well defined functions and responsibilities. A person who is or has been Judge of the Supreme Court or who is or has been a chief Justice of a High Court will be eligible for appointment as Chairman of the Regulatory Authority. A person who has been Additional Secretary/Secretary to Government of India or holding an equivalent post in the Central or State Government for a period of at least three years will be eligible for appointment as a Member of the Regulatory Authority.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

341. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges in Karnataka have been modernised;

(b) if not, the number of modernised telephone exchanges alongwith the number of telephone exchanges with the old system;

(c) the time by which all the telephone exchanges are likely to be modernised;

(d) whether the work of modernisation of telephone exchanges in rural areas is being delayed; and

(e) if not, the time which the telephone exchanges in rural areas are likely to be modernised on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Number of modernised telephone exchanges = 1912
Number of telephone exchanges with the old system = 21

(c) All life-expired old exchanges will be replaced during 1995-96 and other old exchanges will be replaced by modernised exchanges progressively after the expiry of prescribed life.

(d) No, Sir. All the exchanges in rural areas are modernised.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

Defeat of an Aid motion by the US Congress

342. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAHBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the defeat of motion seeking to deny US aid of $ 70 million for 1996 to India in the US Congress by 210 to 196 votes, as reported in the 'Patriot' of 30th June, 1995;

(b) whether Government have since taken or propose to take any further steps to augment and strengthen pro-Indian lobby in the US in particular and other countries in general and also to augment the Indian information system abroad in the light of the said voting on the US aid motion; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian mission at

Washington has been actively monitoring developments in the US Congress relating to India and lobbying with influential US Congressmen and opinion-makers to enhance understanding of India's concerns. The Mission's efforts are being supplemented by our Consulates and a law firm which has been engaged to assist us in lobbying with the US Congress. An intensive public information campaign covering a wide spectrum of US opinion has also been undertaken. This has been a continuing effort over a long time.

Strength of Department of Post

343. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the strength of Department of Post (Cadre-wise);

(b) in keeping with the norms prescribed by Government whether Government are considering any proposal for reduction of strength at the headquarters and directing the surplus staff to the Circles for operational work; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to overhaul the whole Department of post and whether any steps are being taken to place yearly lumpsum amount at the disposal of Postmaster Generals as is being done in telecom wing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is given at statement (*see* below).

(b) The review of posts both at Headquarters and field is done with reference to justified workload and redeployment/creation carried out as required.

(c) Operations, procedures and structures of the Department are constantly studied to effect improvement. There is no proposal to place any yearly lump sum amount at the disposal of circles.

Statement

Carde-Strength of Department of Post in Group 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'ED'

Group 'A'	635
Group 'B'	1843
Group 'C'	231994
Group 'D'	55562
Extra Departmental	306027
Total A+B+C+D	290034
Extra-Deparmental	306027
Grand Total	596061

Cases of Custodial Deaths

344. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of custodial deaths in police in the national capital have increased since the past few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total number of custodial deaths taken place during the past six months;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission have started probing the cause of deaths of inmates in police custody; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) No death in police custody in the Capital has been reported by Delhi Police in the last six months. However, intimation of four instances of deaths allegedly in police custody in Delhi in the last six months was given to the National Human Rights Commissioner of Police, Delhi and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on each of these deaths, allegedly in police custody. Reports on all these four instances have been received by the Commission. In two of these cases, after considering the reports, the Commission has directed that no further action be taken.